Navy Transfers Crewmen Off Nixon Boat in Pot Probe

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Twelve sailors assigned to the unit which controls President Nixon's yacht, the Sequoia, have been transferred after some of them were discovered smoking marijuana, the Navy reported yesterday.

The incident marks the second time in three weeks that Navy men assigned jobs near the President have been investigated for marijuana use.

The initial investigation, the Navy said, indicates the sailors were caught smoking marijuana away from the Sequoia during their off-duty hours.

Mr. Nixon has used the Sequoia, moored on the Anacostia River in Washington, for periodic evening cruises. Occasionally, he holds high-level staff meetings aboard the boat.

On May 8, the Navy disclosed that 28 Marines and 18 sailors assigned to the presidential mountain retreat at Camp David, Md., were being reassigned pending an investigation into charges that some were smoking marijuana.

In the Camp David and Sequoia cases, the Navy emphasized that some of those being transferred were not smoking pot, but had been involved in the initial investigation.

In both incidents, the Navy said there had been no security violations.

A Navy spokesman said 11 of the 12 sailors involved normally were assigned to duties on the yacht.

The Navy said Lt. Cdr. Andrew J. Combe, commander of the Naval Administrative Unit at the Washington Navy Yard, was told about marijuana use by his crew on May 14. He requested on investigation which resulted in yesterday's tranfers.